IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1. (Original) A method of inventorying logical volumes in a computer storage system, the computer storage system comprising a plurality of storage elements coupled together with a communication network, the method comprising steps of:

for each of a plurality of logical volumes, maintaining identifying information for each user of the respective logical volume; and

for each of the plurality of logical volumes, verifying that the logical volume is still in use.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the verifying step comprises a step of performing verification for each of the logical volumes stored in the computer storage system as a discrete, continuous process.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the verifying step comprises a step of performing verification for each of the plurality of logical volumes located on one of the storage elements as a discrete, continuous process.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the verifying step comprises a step of performing verification for each of the plurality of logical volumes accessed by one of the users, coupled to the communication network, as a discrete, continuous process.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the users is a host computer.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the users is an account on a host computer.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the users is an application running on a host computer.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the logical volume is a hyper-volume.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the logical volume is a component of a conventional logical volume.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the logical volume is a partition.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of maintaining is performed by a storage management console computer.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of maintaining comprises a step of maintaining identifying information for each user of the respective logical volume on the respective storage element on which the logical volume is stored.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of maintaining comprises a step of maintaining identifying information for each user of the respective logical volume on a storage management console computer.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of assigning an ~~ELVID~~ enterprise logical volume identifier (ELVID) to each logical volume.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the verifying step comprises steps of:

identifying at least one of a plurality of host computers, the identified host computers having accessed one of the logical volumes; and

querying each of the identified of host computers about whether the logical volume is still in use.

16. (Original) A storage element, comprising:

a storage medium to store logical volumes;

an access manager module configured to maintain identifying information for each user of the logical volumes stored on the storage medium; and

a verifier module, coupled to the access manager module, to perform verification that a logical volume is still in use.

17. (Original) The storage element of claim 16, further comprising:

a verification initiator to initiate verification.

18. (Original) The storage element of claim 17, wherein the verifier module includes a time tracker to identify when a logical volume has not been accessed for an identified period of time.

19. (Original) The storage element of claim 17, wherein the verifier module includes a module to query each user of a logical volume to be verified.

20. (Currently Amended) The storage element of claim 16, further comprising:

an ~~ELVID~~ enterprise logical volume identifier (ELVID) database module.

21. (Currently Amended) The storage element of claim 16, further comprising:

an ~~ELVID~~ enterprise logical volume identifier (ELVID) verification module.

22. (Original) A storage management facility for a computer system that includes a plurality of storage elements and a plurality of host computers, comprising:

an access manager module configured to maintain identifying information for each user of the logical volumes stored on the storage medium; and

a verifier module, coupled to the access manager module, to perform verification that a logical volume is still in use.

23. (Currently Amended) The storage management facility of claim [[16]] 22, further comprising:

a verification initiator to initiate verification.

24. (Currently Amended) The storage management facility of claim [[17]] 23, wherein the verifier includes a time tracker to identify when a logical volume has not been accessed for an identified period of time.

25. (Currently Amended) The storage management facility of claim [[17]] 23, wherein the verifier includes a module to query each user of a logical volume to be verified.

26. (Currently Amended) The storage management facility of claim [[16]] 22, further comprising:

an ~~ELVID~~ enterprise logical volume identifier (ELVID) database manager module.

27. (Currently Amended) The storage management facility of claim [[16]] 22, further comprising:

an ~~ELVID~~ enterprise logical volume identifier (ELVID) verification module.

28-36. (WITHDRAWN)